

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*John 15:13*

*Greater love has no one than this,  
that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

### THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

Valentine's Day is upon us and love is in the air. Everybody is running here and there trying to find the greatest gift of all. More than that, everybody is on a great quest to experience the greatest love of all: the kind of love that sweeps them off their feet and sends them soaring above the clouds. Experience has proven that kind of love to be quite elusive – in fact, it seems to only exist in fairy tales, novels, and movies. Faced with this sad reality, our world has started championing loving ourselves as the greatest love of all. Why wait on somebody else to show us love? We know ourselves better than anybody else, right? We know exactly what we want (need). So, don't wait for anybody else. Adore ourselves. Pamper ourselves. Happy Valentine's Day to me! Even Christians are claiming that Jesus said we are to love ourselves before we can love others.

Jesus would beg to differ with that interpretation of His words. Jesus actually challenged us to strive to love others the way we already love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). As far as Jesus is concerned, great love is not inward focus. It is firmly fixed on sacrificially seeking the best for others. Jesus exemplified this by dying on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Through disobedience and rebellion, humanity had ensnared itself in inescapable sin. We languish in self-loathing and fear, convinced that we are unlovable. We demand repeated proofs from any who dares to claim they love us.

But Jesus loves us. So, He willingly died on the cross (and rose from the dead) to pay for our sin. We can now experience genuine forgiveness and restoration to the Father. Once we embrace Jesus' love for us, our souls are flooded with the knowledge of how deeply we are loved. De-

spite our shortcomings and failures, Jesus died for us. Although we regarded Him as an enemy, Jesus died for us. When we had nothing glorious to commend us, Jesus died for us! This is indeed the greatest love of all. Jesus laid down His life for us. The more we understand and embrace Jesus' love, the more we are moved to love others with that same kind of love.

As we grow in Christian love, we become less and less self-absorbed, and more and more sacrificial in our love. We do not demand constant proof of others' love for us but are motivated to love them – even if they don't fully understand or appreciate it.

May God help us to experience and share the greatest love of all.

God bless you!

Pastor James

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
**TUE @ 7 PM**

**FEB 11**

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

**YOUTH GROUP**

**FRI @ 6:45 PM**

**FEB 14**

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
**1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM**

**FEB 16**

Join us online

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**FEB 16**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**FEB 16**

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

**GROWTH GROUPS BEGIN**  
**THU & FRI @ 7 PM**

**FEB 13 & FEB 14**

In-person at church.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grab a baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash or a check and return by Feb 16<sup>th</sup> to support Pregnancy Resource Center's Baby Bottle Fundraiser.
- Online Evening Service Sunday @ 6. Topic: The Names of God and Why They Matter. Zoom Login Info: Meeting ID: 849 3458 9907. Passcode: 139490
- Support Silvia & Yael Cid and other BCM missionaries on a mission trip to Boliva. You may support them in prayer and/or by purchasing items to be used in Boliva from this Amazon link: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/2KPFUMSVVQMPO>. If you have any questions, you may contact Silvia by phone at 570-369-7017, or by email at silviapcid@gmail.com.
- Growth Groups continue this Thursday & Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center to attend one convenient to you.
- We receive a Building Fund Offering every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Be sure to put your contribution in the specially marked envelopes.
- Check out our Spiritual Growth Resource Library to find resources to help you in your Christian development. We add new resources from time to time.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Check out The Exchange on our webpage where you can list items you'd like to give away, and/or claim items which are listed.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!